

The sea-trout seldom ascend the rivers far above the tideway; when they first enter the estuaries early in the season they are in the finest condition, and scarcely if at all inferior to salmon. They are frequently taken of the weight of 7 lbs., though the most usual weight is from 2 lbs. to 5 lbs. They are very abundant in June in the bays and harbours of Prince Edward Island. At the Magdalen Islands they are taken in nets; and being pickled in small casks and exported to the West Indies, if carefully cleaned, cured, and packed, they there bring a higher price than salmon.

In the tideway of the rivers flowing into the gulf these fine fish might be taken in sufficient quantities to form an article of traffic. They afford great sport to the fly-fisher, especially when they first enter the mixed water of the tideway in the smaller rivers.

The common trout (*salmo fario*) are also eagerly sought after by the disciples of Izaak Walton; and although destroyed in the most wanton and reckless manner by unthinking persons, they are still abundant. The destruction of these beautiful fish takes place by wholesale upon many rivers in the northern part of the province, and one of the modes practised is called "rolling for trout." When the streams are at their lowest stage in the summer season, a dam of logs, stones, and brush is roughly built at the lower end of some pool in which the fish have congregated. This "rolling dam" being constructed, the stream for some distance above the pool is beaten with poles, and the fish are driven down to the deepest water, out of which they are swept with a net. The writer was informed, that in this way 3,600 trout had been taken out of one pool at a single sweep of the net. In August last 1,300 large trout were thus taken out of one pool on the Scadouck river, while the writer was at Shediac. This practice is greatly to be deprecated, as, by destroying fish of all sizes, it completely breaks up the trout fishery on those rivers where it takes place.

The smelt (*salmo eperlanus*) is found in excessive abundance in all the rivers and streams flowing into the Gulf. In the latter part of winter, when they are in the best condition, they are taken through holes in the ice, and are at that season a very great delicacy; they are then frequently called "frost-fish." Immediately after the ice disappears, they rush in almost solid columns up the brooks and rivulets to spawn, and are then taken by cart-loads. This fishery, under proper management, might be made one of considerable profit, as the smelt is really delicious, and always highly esteemed.

Eels of large size and of fine quality are taken everywhere within the Gulf, and besides those consumed fresh they are pickled in considerable quantities, as well for home consumption as for exportation. Mr. Yarrell, in describing the eel, says, "They are in reality a valuable description of fish; they are very numerous, very prolific, and are found in almost every part of the world. They are in great esteem for the table, and the consumption in our large cities is very considerable."

In the calm and dark nights during August and September the largest eels are taken in great numbers by the Micmacs and Acadian French, in the estuaries and lagoons, by torch light, with the Indian spear. This mode of taking eels requires great quickness and dexterity, and a sharp eye. It is pursued with much spirit, as, besides the value of the eel, the mode of fishing is very exciting. In winter, eels bury themselves in the muddy parts of rivers, and their haunts, which are generally well known, are called "eel grounds." The mud is thoroughly probed with a five-pronged iron spear, affixed to a long handle, and used through a hole in the ice. When the eels are all taken out of that part within reach of the spear, a fresh hole is cut, and the fishing goes on again upon new ground.

If a market should be found for this description of fish, they could be furnished to an unlimited extent.

The common flounder (*pleuronectes flesus*) is found in such abundance in the Gulf, that it is used largely for manuring land. The writer has seen potatoes being planted in hills, when the only dressing consisted of fresh flounders, which were used with a lavish hand. They are seldom taken by the inhabitants of the Gulf shore, who can readily obtain so many other descriptions of fish of superior quality. The flounder is long lived out of the water, and bears land carriage better than most fish; there is no reason, therefore, why flounders should not become a valuable commodity.

That the varied, extensive, and most abundant fisheries of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence would be greatly influenced by the construction of a railway along the eastern coast of New Brunswick, there cannot be a reasonable doubt; but in all probability the proposed railway from Shediac to the harbour of St. John would affect those fisheries in an equal if not a greater degree.

The hardy and enterprising fishermen of the Bay of Fundy dread the long and dangerous voyage around the whole peninsula of Nova Scotia to the fishing grounds of the Gulf, a voyage which frequently lasts three weeks, and is deemed by underwriters equally hazardous with a voyage to Europe; but it is not alone the dangers of the voyage which deters them from the prosecution of these fisheries, it is the great loss of time they occasion, and the expense they create, as these render the adventure too often far from profitable.

A railway from Shediac to the port of Saint John, which is open at all seasons of the year, would enable the various products of the fisheries to reach a port of shipment in four hours, and the necessity for the long voyage around Nova Scotia would be wholly